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HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

FADE IN:

EXT. NURSING HOME - NIGHT

Falling snow twinkles like tiny diamonds in the street light.

ROSE, thirty something, holds her up-turned collar snugly around her neck.

She walks swiftly down the sidewalk toward the entrance of a one-story building, and carries a tote bag in her other hand.

SUPER: "ELDER CARE NURSING FACILITY".

She glances to a lighted window where a darkened silhouette stands in full view, appearing to look out.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

A beautiful Christmas tree adorned with multi-colored lights, and ornaments. Presents are set neatly underneath.

The room is decorated with Christmas items. A warm, and homey feel fills the air.

NETTIE (35) stands next to a window. She moves the curtains aside and peers out. A smile spreads across her face as something catches her eye.

Porch light shines across the yard. ROSE (7) and BUD (36) stand outside in the falling snow with their backs turned, both bundled in warm coats, hats, and gloves. Rose hands Bud a carrot.

Nettie taps on the window.

NETTIE

Rose.

Bud steps to the side and reveals a snowman directly in front of them. He inserts the carrot into a snowman's face. Rose looks up at him with an approving smile.

Nettie taps the window again.

Both turn toward her and give a slight wave.

NETTIE
It's time you two come in.

Bud wraps his arm around Rose's shoulder.

INT. NURSING HOME - NETTIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Nettie, now with white hair, appears to be in her late 60s, stands at the window looking out.

ROSE (O.S.)
What was that Mom?

She turns from the window.

NETTIE
I said --

Rose unbuttons her coat as she steps further into the room.

A white and sterile room with a hospital bed and a single chair. A television set on a small table is turned off. A few Christmas cards are displayed on top of the T. V.

Nettie turns back to the window.

NETTIE
-- the snow is beautiful. Isn't it?

Rose stops at the chair and sets her bag down. A present sticks out of the bag.

A NURSE (30) walks in the hall, and stops at the open doorway. She looks into the room.

NURSE
Merry Christmas Rose.

Rose turns toward the nurse.

ROSE
Merry Christmas to you, too,
Evelyn.

NURSE
Came for a visit I see.

ROSE
I'd like to take her home, but --

The nurse nods, she knows.

NURSE
She's been waiting for you all day.

The nurse looks at her watch.

NURSE
Sorry, Rose, I have to be running
or I'll be late. My shift just
ended... Family. You know.

Rose nods.

The nurse peeks around Rose to Nettie.

NURSE
Merry Christmas to you, too,
Nettie.

The nurse leaves. Rose takes off her coat, and sets it on the chair.

Nettie still stands at the window, looking out.

NETTIE
What a beautiful sight.

ROSE
Are you joking? It's freezing out
there.

NETTIE
When I look at the snow, it warms
me from the inside to the out.

Rose digs through her bag, and pulls out two cookies. She moves to the window, and looks outside too.

INT. HOUSE - FLASHBACK - NIGHT

Nettie (35) looks out the window to 7 year old Rose as she tosses a snowball.

The snowball strikes Bud in the back, but he doesn't flinch. He takes off his hat and puts it on the snowman's head.

INT. NURSING HOME - BACK TO NETTIE AND ROSE

Nettie CHUCKLES.

Rose faces her.

ROSE
How are you feeling today, Mom?

NETTIE
What was that?

She turns to Rose, and her eyes widen immediately.

NETTIE
What's going... Who are you?!

Emotion drains from Rose's face.

ROSE
It's me, Mom. Rose...

Nettie twists around and glances at her surroundings.

ROSE
You know me. I'm your little girl.

Nettie stares off through frightened eyes. A tear trickles down her cheek.

ROSE
We were just looking at the snow.
It's Christmas Eve. Remember?

Rose gently turns her back toward the window.

ROSE
See? It's beautiful isn't it?

NETTIE
Yes it is.

The grown Rose is gone. Seven year old Rose is in her place. The child lifts a cookie to her.

YOUNG ROSE
They're chocolate chip.

Nettie takes the cookie.

NETTIE
Oh yes. I see that.

Thirty something Rose is back, and the young Rose is gone. They turn back to the window. Nettie begins to eat her cookie. Rose wraps her arm around her mother's shoulder.

ROSE
(singing)
Bells will be ringing that glad,
glad news.

Rose kisses Nettie's cheek.

ROSE
I love you Momma.

She rests her head on Nettie's shoulder.

ROSE
(singing)
Please come home for Christmas.

Nettie reaches her arm around Rose's waist, giving her a hug.

EXT. HOUSE - FLASHBACK - NIGHT

Snow falls on Rose (7), Nettie (35), and Bud (36) as they hold hands in a circle, and do a silly little dance.

ROSE (V.O.)
(singing)
Please come home for Christmas. If
not for Christmas, then by New
Year's night.

They are all smiling. Having a great time. A time that will be remembered.

FADE OUT.

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